Working Group on Energy Policy (1979) had estimated that the annual per capita consumption of energy on households in rural areas is about 0.38 tonnes of coal replacement and the household energy constitutes about 80 per cent of the total energy consumption in rural areas. Estimates in respect of tribal areas are not available separately.

(b) The per capita energy consumption in rural areas in India is lower in comparison to that in some of the Commonwealth countries.

(c) The programmes undertaken in the 7th Plan to augment the availability of energy in rural areas include additional supply of electricity from the grid, setting up of bio-gas plants, improved chulhas, fuelwood plantation, Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme, and installation of devices based on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy.

Telephones on the recommendation of Members of Parliament

1425. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections are sanctioned on the recommendations of Members of Parliament in the same way as Petroleum Ministry allows cooking gas connections; and

(b) if so, on what basis recommendations of Members of Parliament are accepted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Recommendations from Members of Parliament for according priority for telephone connections are given due consideration. The recommendations are accepted taking into consideration the availability of exchange capacity and merits of the case.

In view of above, no separate quota is considered necessary.

Shifting of hazardous Industries in Assam to safe places

1426. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been made about the industries which are located in crowded localities in Assam and whose emissions of gas are harmful to the public;

(b) if so, what are the details of those studies; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to shift these industries to far off areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The Ministry of Industry have not made any such studies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposals for setting up of National Advisory Panel

1427. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the hurdles for the Central Government for setting up a national advisory panel with representatives of the State Governments for formulating national industrial policy for the country from time to time;

(b) whether any such proposals have been received from the State Governments; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Central Government is empowered to constitute a Central Advisory Council of Industries to advise it on